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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for inferring an information goal, comprising:
a query subsystem ~~adapted to receive~~ that receives at least one of a query and an extrinsic data, the query subsystem ~~being~~ is operatively coupled to an inference model and a knowledge data store, the query subsystem comprising:
a natural language processor ~~adapted to parse~~ that parses the query; and
an inference engine ~~adapted to infer~~ that infers one or more informational goals based, at least in part, on at least one of the query, the extrinsic data and an inference data stored in the inference model.
2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, where the informational goals include at least one of, a type of information requested in the query, a topic of the query, a focal point of the query, an age of a person presenting a query to the system and one or more levels of detail desired in a response to the query.
3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 2 comprising:
an input query log ~~adapted to store~~ that stores at least one of, one or more queries and one or more pieces of extrinsic data; and
a learning system operatively coupled to the input query log, the learning system operable to produce the inference model.
4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 3, where the learning system comprises:
the natural language processor further ~~adapted to produce~~ produces linguistic data concerning one or more linguistic features;
a tagging tool ~~adapted to facilitate~~ that facilitates manipulating the linguistic data;
one or more taggers ~~adapted to manipulate~~ that manipulates the linguistic data; and

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wherein the inference model adapted to store stores information concerning conditional probabilities associated with the likelihood that one or more informational goals exist, where the conditional probabilities of the informational goals are determined, at least in part, from Bayesian statistical analysis performed on the linguistic data.

5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 4, ~~where~~ the linguistic data comprises a parse tree, where the parse tree contains extractable information concerning the nature of and relationships between observable linguistic features.

6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 5, ~~where~~ the observable linguistic features in the extractable information comprise word-based features, structural features and hybrid linguistic features.

7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 6, ~~where~~ the word-based features indicate the presence of one or more candidate terms that can be employed in predicting an informational goal.

8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 4, ~~where the taggers are further adapted to~~ manipulate the linguistic data to conform with one or more schemas associated with reasoning concerning the relevance of a part of a query based on one or more language models.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8, ~~where the taggers are further adapted to~~ supervise learning associated with computing probabilities associated with the informational goals.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 4, ~~where~~ the inference model represents a probabilistic dependency model.

11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 4, ~~where~~ the inference model comprises one or more decision trees, the decision trees ~~adapted to~~ store conditional probabilities associated with one or more informational goals, the decision trees being traversable by the linguistic data.

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12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 3, ~~where the input query log is at least one of a data store and a manual store.~~

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 3, ~~where the natural language processor is further adapted to parse-parses a query into one or more parts suitable for retrieving one or more conditional probabilities stored in the inference model.~~

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13, ~~where the one or more parts comprise at least one of, logical forms, adjectival phrases, adverbial phrases, noun phrases, verb phrases, prepositional phrases and parse trees.~~

15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14, the inference engine further ~~adapted to infer~~ ~~infers~~ one or more informational goals based, at least in part, on at least one of the query, the extrinsic data, the one or more parts, and the one or more conditional probabilities stored in the inference model.

16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 3, the query subsystem further comprising: ~~an answer generator adapted to produce~~ ~~that produces~~ a response to the query ~~and produces an error message.~~

17-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, ~~where the knowledge data store is searchable for information responsive to a new query and where the information retrieved will depend, at least in part, on the inferred informational goals.~~

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 ~~where the query subsystem is compiled into an executable, and where the executable accepts as input one or more query distinctions.~~

22-28. (Cancelled)

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29. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing computer executable components of a system for inferring an information goal, the system comprising:

a query component adapted to receive that receives a new query and a new extrinsic data, the query component operatively coupled to an inference model and a knowledge data store, the query component comprising:

a natural language processing component adapted to parse that parses the new query; and an inference component adapted to infer that infers one or more informational goals based, at least in part, on at least one of, the new query, the new extrinsic data and an inference data stored in the inference model.

30-54. (Cancelled)

55. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing computer executable components of a system for learning how to infer information goals from queries, the system comprising:

a natural language processing component adapted to produce that produces a linguistic data concerning one or more linguistic features;

a tagging component adapted to facilitate manipulating that manipulates the linguistic data;

one or more taggers adapted to manipulate that manipulates the linguistic data; and an inference model component adapted to store that stores information concerning conditional probabilities associated with the likelihood that one or more informational goals exist, where the conditional probabilities of the informational goals are determined, at least in part, from Bayesian statistical analysis performed on the linguistic data.

56. (Cancelled)